

OFFICE OF THE EASTON FIRE MARSHAL

EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



PRESS RELEASE

September 30, 2021 – Easton Fire Department and the Office of the Fire Marshal announce the theme of Fire Prevention week, October 3-9, 2021 is “learn the sounds of fire safety”. From beeps to the chirps, this year’s campaign works to better educate the public about the sounds smoke alarms make, what those sounds mean, and how to respond to them.

Smoke alarms have played a leading role in reducing fire death rates over the past 40 years, but we still have more work to do in maximizing their effectiveness.

According to the latest National Fire Prevention Association, “NFPA” [“Smoke Alarms in the U.S.”](#) report, working smoke alarms in the home reduce the risk of dying in a reported fire by more than half (55 percent). However, almost three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms (41 percent) or smoke alarms that failed to operate (16 percent); missing or non-functional power sources, including missing or disconnected batteries, dead batteries, and disconnected hardwired alarms or other alternate current (AC) power issues, are the most common factors when smoke alarms fail to operate.

“When the smoke alarms in your home beep or chirp and you can’t figure out why - or how to make them stop - it can be frustrating. All too often, that frustration leads people to remove the batteries from their alarms or dismantle them altogether,” said Carli. “These actions place people at serious risk in the event of a home fire.”

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety,” helps people better understand the reasons smoke alarms may sound and the know-how to effectively address them, helping ensure that smoke alarms remain in working order. The campaign also addresses special considerations for the deaf and hard of hearing, along with information about carbon monoxide alarms.

“Giving people the tools to properly respond to alarms sounding – whether it’s an actual fire or simply time to change a battery – can make a life-saving difference,” said Carli.

Key messages for “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” include:

- When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, respond immediately by exiting the home as quickly as possible.
- Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.
- If there is someone in your household who is deaf or hard of hearing, install bed shaker and strobe light alarms that will alert that person to fire.
- Know the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and a carbon monoxide alarm – three beeps for smoke alarms; four beeps for carbon monoxide alarms.